

HB 1172 Election Law - Absentee Ballot Envelopes - Party Affiliation

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Status

In the House - Hearing 3/08 at 1:00 p.m.

Analysis

Synopsis

Prohibiting absentee ballot envelopes, ballot/return envelopes, return envelopes, and envelope templates from including language or information that visibly identifies the party affiliation of the voter.

Committees

Original:

[Ways and Means](#)

Details

Cross-filed with: [SB0989](#)

My name is Marilee Kerns, I'm a resident of Boonsboro, Maryland.

I am in support of HB 1172. It is extremely important to the citizens of Maryland and the United States to have fair elections. Any appearance or assertions of unfair elections or tainted elections have a detrimental effect on our democracy. It is often stated that the appearance of impropriety is all that is needed to cast doubt. I see no need for a voter's party affiliation to be displayed for the general public to view. A citizen's vote is private and personal, and if a ballot is returned via USPS there is no need for a mail carrier, sorter or any individual to know the type of ballot being voted. This is a necessary additional layer of security to maintain voter integrity.

I am against unsolicited mailing of ballots, so any mailed ballot should preserve a level of integrity that respects an individual's right to vote and their vote to be counted.

Marilee Kerns

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